**Ultrasonic Flaw Detector Machines**

452. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the derailment of wagons were caused due to failure of Ultrasonic Flaw Detector Machines purchased from some private companies;

(b) what is the total number of such machines purchased during the last three years alongwith the names of the companies from whom these machines purchased and the quantity received;

(c) whether quality of above machine manufactured by ECIL a Government of India Undertaking compared to the quality of product of other manufacturers in the private sector is excellent; and

(d) if so, why the Railways placed orders on private manufacturers for the above machines?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Total number of such machines procured was 81. These were procured from ECIL-63 Nos, Electronic & En gineering Company, Andheri, Mumbai-3 Nos, Vibronics, Mumbai-9 Nos, Mad-sonic Inst. Mfg. Co., Ahmedabad-4 Nos. and Krautkrammer, Germany-2 Nos.

(c) and (d) These machines have been procured to a common specification laid down by Research Designs & Standards Organisation of Railways and hence the quality of machines is comparable.

**Requests for the Confirmation of Berths from Headquarters Quota**

453. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests for confirmation of berths from the headquarters quota (Rail Bhawan) from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament received during January, 1997 till date;

(b) how many requests from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament have been considered by the Ministry;

(c) whether the requests from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament are being ignored and requests from other quarters are considered positively;

(d) whether some tour operators (touts) have made in-roads to Ministry to clear berths from the headquarters quota for their clients; and

(e) what are the steps taken by the Ministry to see that only proper and valid requests are considered?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN;: (a) and (b) A large number of requests are received, from various quarters including MPs for release of accommodation out of a limited number of berths earmarked as Emergency Quota and are dealt with on day to day basis. No statistics of requests received from various quarters including MPs are being maintained.

(c) Requests received from the Mem bers of Parliament for release of berths/ seats out of Emergency Quota for their own journeys and in favour of their family members are mostly honoured.

Requests of Members of Parliament for allotting berths/seats from Emergency Quota for journey of others are considered on merit depending on factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on Government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness, etc.

Since a large number of requests are eceived from various quarters and are dealth with on day-to-day basis, it is not feasible to accommodate all such re quests.

(d) A few take requests have come to notice.